

DETAILED ACTION

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in the telephone interviews with Mr. Leonard P. Linardakis on 11/04/2009.

2. The following changes to the claims have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

On Claim 18, the phrase "may be freely set" is changed to "is set" (line 29 of page 3 of the amendment filed on August 3, 2009)

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The reference listed on the disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 06/17/2009 have being considered by the examiner (see attached PTO 1449).

Response to Amendment

4. The Amendment filed on 08/03/2009 has been received and made of record. Claim 18 has been amended and Claims 1-17 have been cancelled. Claims 18-24 are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to independent claim 18, the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a solid-state image sensing apparatus comprising: line memories which are arranged between the pixels and the output channels and which temporarily store pixel signals of the pixels selected and read out in the first driving mode and the second driving mode; and a control circuit which is arranged between the pixels and the line memories and which sets a driving mode to one of the first driving mode and the second driving mode based on an externally input signal which is set, wherein the number of output channels to which the pixel signals are output in the first driving mode and the number of output channels to which the pixel signals are output in the second driving mode are different, and in combination with other elements.

As to claims 19-24, these claims are dependent upon allowable independent claim 18 and are thus also considered allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kent Wang whose telephone number is 571-270-1703. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 PM (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-270-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)? If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/TUAN HO/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622
KW
4 November 2009